

# COUNCIL BRIEFS

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September 11, 2015

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**Digital Government Achievement Awards and Best of the Web:** The Center for Digital Government announced that the Town of West Hartford's new web site was a finalist in the "city portal" category. The annual Best of the Web are the most coveted state and local government awards that recognize outstanding portals and websites based on innovation, functionality, productivity, and performance.

In March, the Town launched a new website that has a responsive design and is powered by an easy-to-use content management system. Key features of this revamped portal include cross browser compatibility, a custom Google search, bulk waste permit form with payment integration, and an events calendar prominently on the homepage to encourage community engagement. Integrated with the new calendar is automated dual posting to social media and press release postings.

In addition, the new site includes a MyWH portal, where residents can create an account and customize the website to their liking, including receiving automated Email alerts when content changes on specific webpages. Later this year, a new online overnight parking omit system will be launched.

**WHFD Grant:** The fire department was awarded an Assistance to Firefighters Grant in the amount of \$162,480 on Sept. 4, 2015. The money will be used to purchase vehicle extrication tools and for rescue training and certification for department members.

**Street Light Audit begins:** A town-wide street lighting audit will start on Monday, Sept 14th. Three representatives wearing yellow safety vests from Tanko Lighting will be on foot, looking up at poles, and recording information with a handheld device. The goal of this project is to change out 1,200 cobra head lights on main roads to LED by Dec. 31, 2016, and possibly more in 2016. The new bulbs will have a longer life, offer greater illumination and safety, and

electricity savings. The project is expected to take five days to complete.

**New Operator of the Yard Waste and Recycling Center:** Supreme Forest Products has been selected as the new operator of the Yard Waste and Recycling Center at 25 Brixton Street. As of September 8<sup>th</sup>, Supreme took on full service operation and management of the facility. Supreme plans to improve and expand the recycling center to make it more functional, for residents and the commercial sector.

**Final Round of Paving begins:** The third and final found of paving will begin the week of September 14, weather permitting. The following streets will be paved:

- Mountain Brook, Garwood Lane, and Old Oak Road
- Avondale Road
- Asylum Avenue, from North Main Street to Trout Brook Drive
- North Quaker Lane, from Farmington Ave. to Asylum Avenue
- Wells Road and Stapes Place
- Burnham Drive and Elmfield Street
- Mountain Rd, from Lostbrook Rd to Albany Avenue

**Textile Recycling now available:** Bay State Textiles, Inc. will provide textile recycling at the town's transfer station, 25 Brixton Street, beginning today, September 11.

Items that can be recycled include bed sheets, pillow cases, blankets, comforters, belts, boots, coats, curtains, draperies, dresses, flip flops, hats, jackets, jeans, jerseys, pajamas, pants, purses, shirts, shoes, shorts, skirts, socks, stuffed animals, suits, sweaters, sweatpants, sweatshirts, table linens, ties, and undergarments. Worn, torn ripped and stained items are also acceptable.

Ronald F. Van Winkle  
Town Manager